

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

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FM USMISSION USBERLIN

TO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2120

AMEMBASSY BERLIN UNN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, WB, US, UK, FR

SUBJECT: RUMORED STRIKE AGAINST PAN AM AND BA

1. SENAT CHANCELLERY OFFICIAL SCHULZE (POLITICAL SECTION CHIEF) TELEPHONED US SENAT LIAISON OFFICER MARCH 12 TO PASS ON REPORT THAT LABOR NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN PAN AM MANAGEMENT AND ITS GERMAN EMPLOYEES HAD REACHED POINT WHERE STRIKE WAS IMMINENT. HE ASKED WHETHER IN THAT EVENT BRITISH AIRWAYS WOULD BE ABLE TO TAKE OVER PAN AM ROUTES AS ALLIES HAD INDICATED WHEN ROUTE SWAP AGREEMENT WAS CONVEYED TO SENAT SEVERAL MONTHS AGO. AS EMBASSY IS AWARE, KRONECK OF FONOFF POSED SIMILAR QUESTION TO US CAA ON MARCH 12.

2. MISOFF SPOKE TO PAN AM MANAGER GALLAGHER LATE AFTER NOON MARCH 12 AND LEARNED THAT SOURCE OF THIS STORY WAS PROBABLY BFG OFFICIAL KRANZ (WHOM GALLAGHER DESCRIBED AS STAUNCH SPD AND LABOR UNION SUPPORTER), WITH WHOM GALLAGHER HAD SPOKEN THAT MORNING. GALLAGHER SAID HE TOLD KRANZ THAT PAN AM BELIEVED UNION WAS DELIBERATELY DRAGGING ITS FEET UNTIL PEAK EASTER TRAVEL PERIOD BEGINS IN HOPE THAT

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WOULD FORCE COMPANY TO MAKE BETTER SETTLEMENT. GALLAGHER

SAID HE ADVISED KRANZ THAT PAN AM PREFERRED TO CONCLUDE NEGOTIATIONS ASAP AND IN FACT HAD TOLD UNION NEGOTIATORS IT WOULD BREAK OFF DISCUSSION AT NOON SATURDAY, MARCH 13, IF AGREEMENT NOT REACHED. GALLAGHER BELIEVES THAT IF KRANZ NOT SOURCE OF RUMOR REGARDING IMMINENT STRIKE, IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN ORIGINATED WITH UNION AS PRESSURE TACTIC. GALLAGHER HIMSELF DOES NOT THINK STRIKE IMMINENT.

3. FRENCH AUTHORITIES AT TEGEL, WHO MONITORING SITUATION CLOSELY, BELIEVE THAT IF PA WERE STRUCK BA EMPLOYEES WOULD GO OUT TOO.

4. MISSION UNDERSTANDS THAT ANY DECISION TO STRIKE MUST BE AGREED TO BY THREE FOURTHS OF OETV MEMBERSHIP TO BE AUTHORIZED UNDER TERMS OF OETV CONSTITUTION. IF UN-AUTHORIZED STRIKE WERE TO BE CALLED BY LOCAL UNION NEGOTIATORS, HOWEVER, IT IS QUESTIONABLE WHETHER FULL WORK FORCE WOULD GO OUT. IN FACT, THERE WOULD BE GOOD CHANCE THAT PANAM AND BA EMPLOYEES WOULD CROSS STRIKE LINE IN SUFFICIENT NUMBERS TO PERMIT AIRLINES TO PROVIDE BASIC AIR SERVICES TO CITY. GEORGE

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